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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/469,561	PAGEL, MARTIN
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Rob Wu	3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _04 October 2007_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-4,6-14,16-19,21-27,30-34 and 37-51_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-4,6-14,16-19,21-27,30-34 and 37-51_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1.   In response filed October 04 2007, the applicant added claims 48-51. Claims 1-4,

6-14, 16-19, 21-27, 30-34, and 37-51 are pending in the current application.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments filed October 04 2007 have been fully considered but they

are not persuasive.

With regards to claim 1, the applicant argues that Harman does not show

"abstracting...data bits from said data stream...wherein said data stream is provided by

an application..." The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The applicant alleges that in

Harman, Microsoft Word does not provide a data stream to parser 112, instead, mail

center controller 4, through host interface 110, provides a data stream to parser 112.

Also significantly, mail center controller 4 receives job data 10 from stations 2 and

modifies the data by adding data from other sources.

Harman describes mail center controller 4 as follows: "Job data 10 is then

transmitted to mail center controller 6[*sic*]. If the mail pieces are to be franked and the

postage values have not been determined a priori, mail center controller 6[*sic*] accesses

postal rate data base 44 and material data base 45 to determine the postage and

materials costs as a function of the materials used." (col 5: lines 12-16) However, as

Harman disclosed, using the mail center controller 4 to determine a postage value is

only the preferred embodiment of the invention, the postage value could have been

determined and included in the job header 12 before the data stream gets to the mail

center controller 4. (col 4: lines 9-11, 62-67) Therefore it is obvious from the description

that if the postage value is determined in advance, then the mail center controller 4

does nothing and passes the data stream along to the parser for abstraction.

Furthermore, Hartman discloses that "it is well within the skill of a person of ordinary

skill in the programming arts to modify a word processing application or produce a

special application which would enable a system to provide such varying attribute data

for mail piece headers 18." (col 5: lines 6-10) Therefore it is obvious at the time of the

invention for one skilled in the arts to combine the word processing application and

driver 37 as disclosed by Hartman into one application to create the job data, and the

application's function is to create the job data and not adapted to control any additional

functions.

The applicant also alleges that Hartman does not show that the parsing occurs at

parser 112 involves examining the data stream for data patterns native to the output of

the application. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As disclosed by Hartman in Fig

2, there is definitely a data pattern in the job data and the parser 112 examines the data

stream for the data patterns by outputting "document data from field 20 to page

description language (PDL) interpreter 114 and envelope data from field 22 to envelope

data buffer 118 in mail finishing unit controller 100. Parser 112 also outputs mail

finishing unit control data, which is default attribute data from job header 12 or specific

mail piece attribute data from mail piece header 18, and the EOJ to mail piece attribute

generator 116." (col 7: lines 49-55) Therefore Hartman clearly disclose a data pattern in

the job data stream and the pattern is used by the parser to distribute the data to the

appropriate areas.

With regards to claim 17, the applicant alleges that Hartman does not teach

abstracting includes examining the data stream for preestablished data patterns that

include the beginning and the ending of postage indicia data. The Examiner

respectfully disagrees. As disclose by Hartman in Fig 2, there is obviously a

preestablished data patterns in the job data stream. Furthermore job header 12

includes data relating to the postage indicia (col 4: lines 9-11) and is separated from

other data in the data stream by unique separators (col 4: lines 31-34). Therefore it is

clear and obvious that Hartman teaches abstracting includes examining the data stream

for preestablished data patterns that include the beginning and the ending of postage

indicia data.

With regards to claim 23, the applicant alleges that Hartman does not show

"calculating under joint control of said secure memory and said separate data stream an

amount of postage to be applied to a particular document to be printed..." The

Examiner respectfully disagrees and note the Harman's invention must be taken as a

whole. Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100

accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG.

5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the

appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) At this point a

separate data stream including data accepted from a source other than said data

stream to said printing device has been created.

Then, once the postage value is determined, controller 100 then requests a

postal indicia corresponding to that value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the

request is granted, returns the variable portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller

100 downloads this variable data to printer 66 together with address and other

information to be printed on the envelope. (col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore, it can be seen

that Harman creates a separate data stream and in conjunction with the class 2 meter

determine the amount of postage to be applied to a particular document to be printed.

With regards to claim 33, the applicant alleges that Hartman does not teach

"wherein said data stream is provided by an application..." The Examiner respectfully

disagrees. As discussed above with regards to claim 1, the mail center controller 4

does not have to be used to determine the postage value, and if it doesn't then it simply

passes the job data to the parser 112. Furthermore, Hartman discloses that "it is well

within the skill of a person of ordinary skill in the programming arts to modify a word

processing application or produce a special application which would enable a system to

provide such varying attribute data for mail piece headers 18." (col 5: lines 6-10)

Therefore it is obvious at the time of the invention for one skilled in the arts to combine

the word processing application and driver 37 as disclosed by Hartman into one

application to create the job data.

With regards to claim 41, the applicant alleges that Hartman does not teach an

abstracting program which examines the data stream for the beginning and ending of

postage indicia data. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As disclosed by Hartman in

Fig 2, there is definitely a data pattern in the job data and the parser 112 examines the

data stream for the data patterns by outputting "document data from field 20 to page

description language (PDL) interpreter 114 and envelope data from field 22 to envelope

data buffer 118 in mail finishing unit controller 100. Parser 112 also outputs mail

finishing unit control data, which is default attribute data from job header 12 or specific

mail piece attribute data from mail piece header 18, and the EOJ to mail piece attribute

generator 116." (col 7: lines 49-55) Therefore Hartman clearly disclose a data pattern in

the job data stream and the pattern is used by the parser to distribute the data to the

appropriate areas.

The applicant also argues that Hartman does not teach a "separate data stream

for enabling at least one said ancillary printing operation, wherein said at least one

ancillary operation comprises the printing of a postage indicia..." Harman discloses

when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100 accesses per item weight

data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG. 5) in data store 101 to

determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for

the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) At this point a separate data stream including data

has been created and is for the printing of a postage indicia.

With regards to claim 4, the applicant argues that there is no rational reason for

giving the user an option to switch apparatus if no capable apparatus exists. The

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Hartman disclose that the system tests if a capable

mail processing apparatus is online, and if no capable apparatus is found controller 4

goes to an error routine. (col 9: lines 55-62) It would have been obvious at the time of

the invention to one skilled in the arts that if the system cannot detect a capable mail

processing apparatus then it would display a dialog box to the user notifying the error

and allow the user to either dismiss the error or select a mail processing apparatus that

is capable of performing the job.

With regards to claim 6, the applicant argues that Hartman does not teach

directing the abstracted portion to multiple locations. The applicant asserts that

Hartman sends the data to a single location "-the page description language interpreter

or envelope data buffer." The Examiner is confused as to where the applicant

determined that Hartman sends the data to the page description language interpreter *or*

envelope data buffer when Hartman expressly disclosed that the parser outputs

document data from field 20 to page description language (PDL) interpreter 114 *and*

envelope data from field 22 to envelope data buffer 118 in mail finishing unit controller

100. (col 7: lines 49-52) Also if the applicant review Fig 5 as disclosed in Hartman it is

clear that the PDL interpreter and the Envelope data buffer are in two different locations.

With regards to claim 12, the applicant argues that Hartman does not teach the

printer driver is operable on the data stream coming from the application operating in a

computing device to control at least a portion of the printing of the printer. The

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Hartman discloses that "printer controller 58 receives

job data 10 from mail center controller 4 and parses the data; sending the mail piece

header 18 to mail finishing unit controller 100." (col 5: lines 36-41) From this disclosure

it is clear that the printer driver is operable on the data stream coming from the

application operating in a computing device to control at least a portion of the printing of

the printer, the printer controller 58 is controlling which data gets to send to which

printer. The citation to mail finishing unit controller 100 storing mail piece attributes 40

from job header 12 for default control of the production of each mail piece and

downloads common elements of the address to be printed on the envelopes to

envelope printer 66. (col 5: lines 42-46) is used to show that the data operated on by the

printer controller 58 is indeed used for printing.

With regards to claim 21, the applicant does not understand how the document

data field 20 shown in Fig 2 teaches the claimed limitation of "abstracting of data bits

includes examining the data stream for data patterns including the beginning and

ending of each document." Hartman discloses, with respect to Fig 2, that document

data 20 is mail piece data defining a sequence of document pages to be printed by the

document printer and is separated from other data bits by separators 26-2 and 26-3.

(col 4: lines 18-20; 32-34) Therefore it is clear that the document data 20 is a data

pattern and the beginning and the end of the document is defined by the separators 26-

2 and 26-3.

With regards to claim 22, the applicant argues that Hartman does not teach the

limitations of claim 22, more specifically does not teach that the abstracting of data bits

includes examining the data stream for the number of pages of a document. The

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Hartman discloses the job header 12 includes the

number of document sheets to be accumulated for each mail piece (col 3: lines 57-60)

and the job header 12 is parsed by the printer controller 58 and the attribute data from

the job header 12 is send accordingly for control of the production of mail pieces. (col 5: lines 36-45) Therefore it is clear that the printer controller 58 examines the data stream which includes the job header 12 for the number of pages of a document.

With regards to claim 25, the applicant argues that Hartman does not teach copying from said data stream portions of said data stream. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The applicant asserts that the teaching from Hartman is that the data stream sent to the mail finishing controller is attribute data that has been parsed from the job data by controller 58 (col 5: lines 37-46). However, is the parsed attribute data not part of the original data stream? Since the parsed attribute data is part of the original data stream that have just been parsed, then Hartman's method of storing mail piece attributes and downloading the common elements of the address to be printed is copying from said data stream portion of said data stream.

With regards to claim 26, the applicant argues that Hartman does not teach the limitations of claim 26, the Examiner respectfully disagrees and directs the applicant to the arguments provided with regards to claim 25.

With regards to claim 27, the applicant argues that Hartman does not teach creating from the copied address information a postage indicia. The Examiner respectfully disagrees and directs the applicant to the arguments provided with regards to claim 25 in explaining copying information. Since it is obvious that the address is needed to calculate a proper postage indicia and Hartman teaches copying the address information therefore Hartman teaches the limitations of claim 27.

With regards to claims 31 and 32, Hartman disclose that the system tests if a

capable mail processing apparatus is online, and if no capable apparatus is found

controller 4 goes to an error routine. (col 9: lines 55-62) It would have been obvious at

the time of the invention to one skilled in the arts that if the system cannot detect a

capable mail processing apparatus then it would display a dialog box to the user

notifying the error and allow the user to either dismiss the error or select a mail

processing apparatus that is capable of performing the job.

With regards to claim 40, the applicant alleges that Hartman does not teach "a

control program for examining said data stream for certain preestablished data patterns,

wherein said control program examines said data stream for data patterns native to

output of said application." The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Hartman discloses

that "it is well within the skill of a person of ordinary skill in the programming arts to

modify a word processing application or produce a special application which would

enable a system to provide such varying attribute data for mail piece headers 18." (col

5: lines 6-10) Therefore it is obvious at the time of the invention for one skilled in the

arts to combine the word processing application and driver 37 as disclosed by Hartman

into one application to create the job data, and the application's function is to create the

job data and not adapted to control any additional functions. Furthermore, Harman also

disclosed, using the mail center controller 4 to determine a postage value is only the

preferred embodiment of the invention, the postage value could have been determined

and included in the job header 12 before the data stream gets to the mail center

controller 4. (col 4: lines 9-11, 62-67) Therefore it is obvious from the description that if

the postage value is determined in advance, then the mail center controller 4 does nothing and passes the data stream along to the parser for abstraction.

Combined the above disclosure with Fig 2, which shows that there is definitely a data pattern in the job data and the parser 112 examines the data stream for the data patterns by outputting "document data from field 20 to page description language (PDL) interpreter 114 and envelope data from field 22 to envelope data buffer 118 in mail finishing unit controller 100. Parser 112 also outputs mail finishing unit control data, which is default attribute data from job header 12 or specific mail piece attribute data from mail piece header 18, and the EOJ to mail piece attribute generator 116." (col 7: lines 49-55) Therefore Hartman clearly disclose a data pattern in the job data stream and the pattern is used by the parser to distribute the data to the appropriate areas.

With regards to claim 45, the applicant alleges that Hartman does not teach that a computer product includes a control program for examining the data stream for preestablished data patterns that include the beginning and ending of each document to be printed. The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Hartman discloses, with respect to Fig 2, that document data 20 is mail piece data defining a sequence of document pages to be printed by the document printer and is separated from other data bits by separators 26-2 and 26-3. (col 4: lines 18-20; 32-34) Therefore it is clear that the document data 20 is a data pattern and the beginning and the end of the document is defined by the separators 26-2 and 26-3. Then the document data from field 20 is parsed by parser 112 and is sent to page description language (PDL) interpreter 114. (col 7: lines 49-50) Therefore Hartman discloses a

computer product includes a control program for examining the data stream for

preestablished data patterns that include the beginning and ending of each document to

be printed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-19, 21-27, 30-34 and 37-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat No. 5,684,706 to Harman et al.

Referring to claim 1:

A method of printing a data stream being presented to a printer, said data stream

adapted to enable said printer to print on one or more sheets of paper information in

accordance with said data stream, said data stream containing data bits useful for

controlling functions additional to said printing information in accordance with said data

stream, said method comprising:

Abstracting at least a portion of said data bits from said data stream with a postal

printer driver, wherein said data stream is provided by an application which has not

been adapted to control said additional functions and said abstracting includes

examining said data stream for data patterns native to output of said application.

Harman et al disclose that the subject invention which includes a plurality of user

input stations 2 which communicate with a mail center controller 4. Stations 2 typically

include a conventional microcomputer running a substantially conventional word

processing application. (col 3: lines 20-24) Harman further disclose the data flow in

input station 2 and mail center controller 4 in creating job data 10. Input station 2 is

preferably a microcomputer of the type commonly used in an office environment, a

commercial word processing application 30, such as that sold under the trade name

"Word" by the Microsoft Corporation. (col 4: lines 35-40) Therefore, since Harman

disclose that conventional word processing application is used it would have been

obvious that the application is not adapted to control the additional functions.

However, as Harman disclosed, using the mail center controller 4 to determine a

postage value is only the preferred embodiment of the invention, the postage value

could have been determined and included in the job header 12 before the data stream

gets to the mail center controller 4. (col 4: lines 9-11, 62-67) Therefore it is obvious

from the description that if the postage value is determined in advance, then the mail

center controller 4 does nothing and passes the data stream along to the parser for

abstraction. Furthermore, Hartman discloses that "it is well within the skill of a person of

ordinary skill in the programming arts to modify a word processing application or

produce a special application which would enable a system to provide such varying

attribute data for mail piece headers 18." (col 5: lines 6-10) Therefore it is obvious at

the time of the invention for one skilled in the arts to combine the word processing

application and driver 37 as disclosed by Hartman into one application to create the job

data, and the application's function is to create the job data and not adapted to control any additional functions.

Figure 2 of Harman's disclosure shows the patterns of the job data 10, outputted by the applications, which is parsed by parser 112 residing in the mail production apparatus. (Fig 5)

Using at least some of said abstracted data bits for controlling at least one of said additional functions, wherein said at least one of said additional functions comprises printing of a postage indica.

Harman discloses that job header 12 also defines a job type and preferably the job type also defines whether or not the mail piece is to be franked, and whether postage values are to be calculated or have been determined a priori. (col 4: lines 8-11)

Creating, from said abstracted data bits, a separate data stream for controlling the printing of said postage indicia.

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100 accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG. 5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) Once the postage value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller 100 downloads this variable data to printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope.

(col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore, it can be seen that Harman creates a separate data stream (variable data) for controlling the printing of postage indicia.

Referring to claim 2:

The method claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises printing of address information on material separate from said printing information in accordance with said data stream.

Harman discloses as part of job data 10, the envelope data filed 22 which includes an address to be printed on the envelope. (col 4: lines 25-26)

Referring to claim 3:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises the printing of a postage indicia on material separate from said printing information in accordance with said data stream.

Harman disclose that the postage indicia is printed on a envelope. (col 6: line 13)

Referring to claim 4:

Harman does not expressly disclose the method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises a dialog box for allowing options from a user. However, Harman does disclose that at 150 mail center controller 4 receives job data 10 from one of input stations 2. At 152 controller 4 determines the material requirements for the job, and at 154 tests to determine if a capable mail processing apparatus is on-line. That is, for example, if the job requires non-standard size materials controller 4 determines if at least one mail processing apparatus 8 capable of processing such material is on-line. If no capable apparatus is found controller 4 goes to an error

routine. (col 9: lines 55-62) Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention for Harman to display a dialog box to the user when the controller 4 goes to an error routine to notify the user of options such as check the apparatus or switch apparatus.

Referring to claim 6:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises directing the abstracted portion to multiple locations.

Harman discloses the parser outputs document data from field 20 to page description language (PDL) interpreter 114 and envelope data from field 22 to envelope data buffer 118 in mail finishing unit controller 100. (col 7: lines 49-52)

Referring to claim 7:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises storage in a memory.

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit controller 100 access per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 56-60)

Referring to claim 8:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises directing the abstracted portion to a viewable medium.

Harman discloses that the envelope data field 22 includes an address to be printed on the envelope. (col 4: lines 25-26)

Referring to claim 9:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises the changing of form of the data.

Harman discloses preferably envelope printer 66 includes an integral controller which will render the test characters received from mail finishing unit controller 100 into appropriate control signals to render an image of the address in accordance with the address data, the font, the layout etc. (col 5: lines 48-50)

Referring to claim 10:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises the delivery of said data to a location remote from said printer driver.

Harman discloses printer controller 58 receives job data 10 from mail center controller 4 and parses the data; sending the attribute data from either job header 12 or mail piece header 18 to mail finishing unit controller 100. (col 5: lines 37-40)

Referring to claim 11:

The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one additional function further comprises the change in at least one of location and format of the data based upon an interaction between certain data in said data stream and data stored in said printer driver.

Harman discloses preferably envelope printer 66 includes an integral controller which will render the test characters received from mail finishing unit controller 100 into appropriate control signals to render an image of the address in accordance with the address data, the font, the layout etc. (col 5: lines 48-50)

Referring to claim 12:

The method of claim 1 wherein said printer driver is operable on said data stream

coming from said application operating in a computing device to control at least a

portion of the printing of said printer.

Harman discloses the mail finishing unit controoler 100 stores mail piece

attributes 40 from job header 12 for default control of the production of each mail piece

and downloads common elements of the address to be printed on the envelopes to

envelope printer 66. (col 5: lines 42-46)

Referring to claim 13:

The method of claim 12 wherein said printer driver is located remote from said

computing device. (Harman Figure 4)

Referring to claim 14:

The method of claim 12 wherein said printer driver is located within said printer.

(Harman Figure 4)

Referring to claim 16:

The method of claim 1 wherein said data patterns are selected from the listing

including:

Return address, destination address, mailing data, number of pages, type of

inserts, mailing service type, postage indicia, bar codes, tracking codes, control codes,

graphics, application types. (Fig 2; col 3: lines 51-67; col 4: lines 1-10)

Referring to claim 17:

A method of printing a data stream being presented to a printer, said data

stream adapted to enable said printer to print on one or more sheets of paper

information in accordance with said data stream, said data stream containing data bits

useful for controlling functions additional to said printing information in accordance with

said data stream, said method comprising:

Abstracting at least a portion of said data bits from said data stream.

Figure 2 of Harman's disclosure shows the patterns of the job data 10, outputted

by the applications, which is parsed by parser 112 residing in the mail production

apparatus. (Fig 5)

Using at least some of said abstracted data bits for controlling at least one of said

additional functions, wherein said at least one of said additional functions comprises

printing of a postage indicia

Harman discloses that job header 12 also defines a job type and preferably the

job type also defines whether or not the mail piece is to be franked, and whether

postage values are to be calculated or have been determined a priori. (col 4: lines 8-11)

Creating, from said abstracted data bits, a separate data stream for controlling

the printing of said postage indicia.

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100

accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG.

5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the

appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) Once the postage

value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that

value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable

portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller 100 downloads this variable data to

printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope.

(col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore, it can be seen that Harman creates a separate data

stream (variable data) for controlling the printing of postage indicia.

Wherein said printer driver is operable on said data stream coming from a

program operating in a computing device to control at least a portion of the printing of

said printer, wherein said abstracting includes examining said data stream for

preestablished data patterns, and wherein said preestablished data patterns include the

beginning and ending of postage indicia data.

Figure 2 as disclosed by Harman shows preestablished data patterns of the data

stream. Harman discloses the mail center controller 4 calculates postage and material

costs in accordance with the mail piece data and appends a postage value to mail piece

header 18. (col 6: lines 1-3) Harman also disclose that fields 18, 20 and 22 are

separate by unique separators 26-1, 26-2, 26-3 and 26-4. (col 4: lines 32-33) Therefore

it is clear that the preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of

postage indicia data.

Referring to claim 18:

The method of claim 1 wherein said additional function further comprises the

printing of said postage indicia on a document other than the document to which said

data stream is being directed.

Harman disclose that the postage indicia is printed on a envelope. (col 6: line 13)

Referring to claim 19:

The method of claim 1 wherein said data patterns include the beginning and

ending of address information contained within said data stream. (col 4: lines 25-26; Fig

2)

Referring to claim 21:

The method of claim 1 wherein said data patterns include the beginning and

ending of each document to be printed. (Fig 2, document data field 20)

Referring to claim 22:

The method of claim 1 wherein said data patterns include the number of pages of

a document. (col 3: lines 57-60)

Referring to claim 23:

A method of printing information on a printed document, said method comprising

the steps of:

Sending a data stream to a printing device; (Fig 1)

Reviewing said data stream to create therefrom a separate data stream for

controlling additional functions with respect to printing of documents, wherein said

separate data stream includes data accepted from a source other than said data stream

to said printing device;

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100

accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG.

5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the

appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) At this point a

separate data stream including data accepted from a source other than said data

stream to said printing device has been created.

Then, once the postage value is determined, controller 100 then requests a

postal indicia corresponding to that value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the

request is granted, returns the variable portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller

100 downloads this variable data to printer 66 together with address and other

information to be printed on the envelope. (col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore, it can be seen

that Harman creates a separate data stream and in conjunction with the class 2 meter

determine the amount of postage to be applied to a particular document to be printed.

Maintaining in a secure memory an amount available for controlling the

generation of a postage indicia; (col 6: liens 15-18)

Calculating under joint control of said secure memory and said separate data

stream an amount of postage to be applied to a particular document to be printed. (col

5: lines 56-61; col 6: lines 4-7)

Deducting said calculated postage amount from said secure memory of said

calculated postage amount is available in said secure memory. (col 10: lines 3-8, 29-30)

Printing information from said data stream in accordance with said additional

functions. (Fig 7)

Referring to claim 24:

The method of claim 23 wherein said additional functions are selected from the

list including printing address information, printing postage indicia, folding a printed

document, stuffing a printed document into an envelope, creating a mailing address for

the delivery of a printed document, creating a postage indicia, creating an auxiliary

document in association with a printed document, controlling a second printer operating

in conjunction with said printer, verifying the address, normalizing the address, adding

delivery bar codes. (col 3: lines 57-65)

Referring to claim 25:

The method of claim 23 wherein said reviewing step includes the step of:

Copying from said data stream portion of said data stream.

Harman discloses mail finishing unit controller 100 stores mail piece attributes 40

from job header 12 for default control of the production of each mail piece and

downloads common elements of the address to be printed on the envelopes to

envelope printer 66. (col 5: lines 42-45) Therefore, the common elements of the

address are copied and used for each envelope.

Referring to claim 26:

The method of claim 25 wherein said portions include address information with

respect to a particular document to be printed. (col 5: lines 42-45)

Referring to claim 27:

The method of claim 26 further including the step of:

Creating from said copied address information a postage indicia. (col 6: lines 9-

15)

Referring to claim 30:

The method of claim 25 wherein said portions include postage indicia information

with respect to a particular document to be printed. (col 5: lines 51-53)

Referring to claims 31 and 32:

Harman does not expressly disclose the method of claim 23 wherein said

reviewing step includes the step of enabling a dialog box and wherein said dialog box

interacts with a user to provide at least one of the following:

Return address and logo; data of mailing; address verification/prompt for

insufficient information; review scanned data; hints for scanning data stream; additional

cover page information or label/envelope customization; delivery (mail service, fax, e-

mail, etc); and options (postage amount, paper weight, weight of inserts, additional mail

services.)

However, Harman does disclose that at 150 mail center controller 4 receives job

data 10 from one of input stations 2. At 152 controller 4 determines the material

requirements for the job, and at 154 tests to determine if a capable mail processing

apparatus is on-line. That is, for example, if the job requires non-standard size

materials controller 4 determines if at least one mail processing apparatus 8 capable of

processing such material is on-line. If no capable apparatus is found controller 4 goes

to an error routine. (col 9: lines 55-62) Therefore, it would have been obvious at the

time of the invention for Harman to display a dialog box to the user when the controller 4

goes to an error routine to notify the user of options such as check the apparatus or

switch apparatus.

Referring to claim 33:

A computer program product, embodied on a computer-readable medium, for

use in association with a data stream being directed to a general purpose printer when

executed, said data stream adapted to enable said printer to print information in accordance with said data stream, said computer program product comprising:

An abstracting program operable for reviewing said data stream to obtain from said data stream a separate data stream for controlling additional printing operations ancillary to said printing operation, wherein said one ancillary operation further comprises the acceptance of data from a source other than said data stream, wherein said data stream is provided by an application which has not been adapted to control said additional printing operations;

Harman et al disclose that the subject invention which includes a plurality of user input stations 2 which communicate with a mail center controller 4. Stations 2 typically include a conventional microcomputer running a substantially conventional word processing application. (col 3: lines 20-24) Harman further disclose the data flow in input station 2 and mail center controller 4 in creating job data 10. Input station 2 is preferably a microcomputer of the type commonly used in an office environment, a commercial word processing application 30, such as that sold under the trade name "Word" by the Microsoft Corporation. (col 4: lines 35-40) Therefore, since Harman disclose that conventional word processing application is used it would have been obvious that the application is not adapted to control the additional functions.

Furthermore, Hartman discloses that "it is well within the skill of a person of ordinary skill in the programming arts to modify a word processing application or produce a special application which would enable a system to provide such varying attribute data for mail piece headers 18." (col 5: lines 6-10) Therefore it is obvious at

the time of the invention for one skilled in the arts to combine the word processing

application and driver 37 as disclosed by Hartman into one application to create the job

data.

Figure 2 of Harman's disclosure shows the patterns of the job data 10, outputted

by the applications, which is parsed by parser 112 residing in the mail production

apparatus. (Fig 5)

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100

accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG.

5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the

appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) Once the postage

value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that

value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable

portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller 100 downloads this variable data to

printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope.

(col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore, it can be seen that Harman creates a separate data

stream (variable data) for controlling the printing of postage indicia.

A controller working in cooperation with said abstracting program and with said

separate data stream for enabling at least one said ancillary printing operation, wherein

said at least one ancillary operation comprises the printing of a postage indicia on

material separate from material on which printing of said information is occurring.

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100

accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG.

5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the

appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) Once the postage

value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that

value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable

portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller 100 downloads this variable data to

printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope.

Referring to claim 34:

The computer product of claim 33 wherein said at least one ancillary operation

comprises the printing of address information on material separate from material on

which printing is occurring. (col 4: lines 25-26)

Referring to claim 37:

The computer product of claim 33 wherein said computer product is operable on

said data stream coming from a general purpose computing device. (col 3: lines 20-24)

Referring to claim 38:

The computer product of claim 37 wherein said computer product is located

remote from said computing device. (Fig 4, printer controller)

Referring to claim 39:

The computer product of claim 37 wherein said computer product is located

within said printer (Fig 4, printer controller)

Referring to claim 40:

The computer product of claim 33 wherein said abstracting program includes:

A control program for examining said data stream for certain preestablished data patterns, wherein said control program examines said data stream for data patterns native to output of said application.

Figure 2 of Harman's disclosure shows the patterns of the job data 10, outputted by the applications, which is parsed by parser 112 residing in the mail production apparatus. (Fig 5)

Referring to claim 41:

A computer program product, embodied on a computer readable medium, for use in association with a data stream being directed to a general purpose printer when executed, said data stream adapted to enable said printer to print information in accordance with said data stream, said computer program product comprising:

An abstracting program operable for reviewing said data stream to obtain therefrom a separate data stream for controlling additional printing operations ancillary to said printing operation;

A controller working in cooperation with said abstracting program and with said separate data stream for enabling at least one said ancillary printing operation, wherein said at leas one ancillary operation comprises the printing of a postage indicia on material separate from material on which printing of said information is occurring.

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100 accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG. 5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) Once the postage

value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller 100 downloads this variable data to printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope. (col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore, it can be seen that Harman creates a separate data stream (variable data) for controlling the printing of postage indicia.

Wherein said abstracting program includes a control program for examining said data stream for certain preestablished data patterns, and wherein said certain preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of postage indicia data.

Figure 2 as disclosed by Harman shows preestablished data patterns of the data stream. Harman discloses the mail center controller 4 calculates postage and material costs in accordance with the mail piece data and appends a postage value to mail piece header 18. (col 6: lines 1-3) Harman also disclose that fields 18, 20 and 22 are separate by unique separators 26-1, 26-2, 26-3 and 26-4. (col 4: lines 32-33) Therefore it is clear that the preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of postage indicia data.

Referring to claim 42:

The computer product of claim 40 wherein one said ancillary operation comprises the printing of said postage indicia on a document other than the document to which said data stream is being directed. (col 6: lines 9-11)

Referring to claim 43:

The computer product of claim 40 wherein said certain preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of address information contained within said data stream. (col 4: lines 25-26; Fig 2)

Referring to claim 44:

The computer product of claim 43 wherein said computer product further contains:

A program for creating from said address information data for controlling the printing of a postage indicia. (col 5: lines 56-61)

Referring to claim 45:

The computer product of claim 43 wherein said certain preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of each document to be printed. (col 4: lines 18-20; Fig 2)

Referring to claim 46:

The computer product of claim 40 wherein said data patterns are selected from the list including:

Return address, destination address, mailing date, number of pages, type of inserts, mailing service type, postage indicia, bar codes, tracking codes, control codes. (Fig 2; col 3: lines 51-67; col 4: lines 1-10)

Referring to claim 47:

The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one additional function further comprises accepting data from a source other than said data stream.

Harman discloses when a mail piece is to be franked finishing unit control 100

accesses per item weight data base 117 and postal rate data base 119 (shown in FIG.

5) in data store 101 to determine the weight of the mail piece and determine the

appropriate postage value for the mail piece. (col 5: lines 55-50) Once the postage

value is determined, controller 100 then requests a postal indicia corresponding to that

value from a class 2 meter which, assuming the request is granted, returns the variable

portion of the indicia to controller 100. Controller 100 downloads this variable data to

printer 66 together with address and other information to be printed on the envelope.

(col 6: lines 4-11) Therefore it can be seen that Harman accepts data from a source

other than the data stream. (weight database, postal rate database, class 2 meter)

Referring to claim 48:

Hartman et al disclose the method of claim 1 further comprising:

Controlling the abstraction from said data stream by a code embedded in said

data stream. (col 5: lines 36-45)

Referring to claim 49:

Hartman et al disclose the method of claim 17 further comprising:

Controlling the abstraction from said data stream by a code embedded in said

data stream. (col 5: lines 36-45)

Referring to claim 50:

Hartman et al disclose the computer program product of claim 33 where said

abstraction program is controlled by a code embedded in said data stream. (col 5: lines

36-45)

Referring to claim 51:

Hartman et al disclose the computer program product of claim 41 where said

abstraction program is controlled by a code embedded in said data stream. (col 5: lines

36-45)

Conclusion

5.   Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the

references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are

applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures

may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the

responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of

the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or

disclosed by the examiner.

6.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

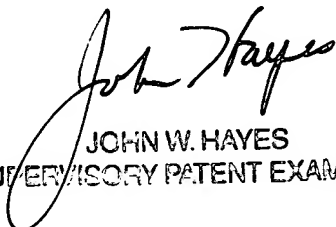extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rob Wu whose telephone number is (571)272-3136. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571)272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

rw

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